GLOSSOP,

February 21st, 1897.

TO THE

MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF GLOSSOP,

(The Urban Sanitary Authority.)

GENTLEMEN,

I now submit to you the Annual Report as to the sanitary condition of the Borough of Glossop for the year 1896, with such recommendations as are needful to promote the health of the inhabitants thereof. The instructions of the Local Government Board are here proposed to be followed in the order in which the subject matters of the duty of the Medical Officer of Health are given, in the several paragraphs of Article 18 of the Order of the Board. With regard to the prevailing diseases which have existed, and the deaths which have occurred during the year, the influences affecting injuriously the public health within the District, with the causes, origin, and distribution of diseases, the removal or mitigation of the conditions upon which such diseases depend, I have to report as follows :—

The population of the Borough in 1891 Census was 22,414, and at the yearly increase of 1 per cent., the population would be 23,560 in June, 1886.

In the Census of 1891 the population of the Wards was as follows :—

All Saints' Ward,	7,326 ;	in 1896 it was	7,696.	The number of deaths were	142	= 18·45	per 1000
St. James's Ward,	8,055 ;	do.	8,466.	Do.	do.	133 = 15·8	do.
Hadfield Ward,	7,033 ;	do.	7,398.	Do.	do.	160 = 21·6	do.
Total	22,414 ;	do.	23,560	Do.	do.	435 = 18·6	do.
In addition to the above there were 15 deaths in the Workhouse.....							
[or 6 less than in 3 previous years.] 6 deaths in Wood's Hospital..						24 = 1·	do.
3 do. Gamesley Fever do.							
						459 = 19·6	do.

The number of Births show birth-rate 25· per 1,000 :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Male.....	20	20	23	13	30	33	18	32	22	25	32	23	= 296
Female...	24	23	25	25	26	17	21	22	27	28	30	26	= 294
												Total	590

Birth-rate, 26 per 1,000. Zymotic Death-rate, 2 per 1,000

There were 11 Inquests during the year.

The Zymotic Death-rate was proportioned thus :—

1. All Saints' Ward	9 under 5		
,, ,, ...	6 above 5		
2. St. James's Ward	9		
,, ,, ...	4		= 48
3. Hadfield Ward	16		
,, ,, ...	4		
Diarrhæa			= 12
Rheumatic Fever			= 1
Phthisis—No. 1 Ward	0 under 5		
,, ,, ,, ...	17 above 5		
,. No. 2 Ward	0		
,, ,, ,, ...	11		= 47
,, No. 3 Ward	4		
,, ,, ,, ...	15		
Pneumonia, Bronchitis, &c.—No. 1 Ward...	6 under 5		
,, ,, ,, ,, ...	18 above 5		
,, ,, No. 2 Ward...	12		
,, ,, ,, ,, ...	14		= 85
,, ,, No. 3 Ward...	15		
,, ,, ,, ,, ...	20		

	No. 1 Ward.	No. 2 Ward.	No. 3 Ward.		
Heart Disease ...	11 ...	7 ...	11 above 5	...	= 29
Injuries ...	...	...	...	...	= 5
All other Diseases	27 ...	32 ...	33 under 5		= 208
,, ,, ,,	41 ...	41 ...	34 above 5		
					435

Cases notified in 1896.—

		Deaths from Contagious Diseases.
Small Pox...	3 ...	1
Measles Epidemic from July to December 31st	... ...	19
Scarlet Fever	128 ...	7
Diphtheria	16 ...	5
Membraneous Croup	4 ...	Nil
Typhoid Fever	20 ...	6
Continued Fever	5 ...	Nil
Erysipelas	13 ...	Nil
Puerperal Fever	5 ...	2
Whooping Cough	... ...	9
	Cases 194 ...	48 Deaths

The death rate up to the end of November was light compared with the last 10 years, but owing to the cold foggy weather and the prevalence of scarlet fever and measles, the mortality increased. There were 16 deaths from measles alone in December, whilst in the six months preceding there were only 3 deaths from this disease in the Borough, viz., 1 in each Ward. The Schools were closed three or four weeks in December. I may also here state that influenza was prevalent in December. I believe that fevers or any disease seem to have their malignancy intensified when influenza is lurking about to strike with greater effect. The mortality amongst children under five from bronchitis and lung inflammation is rather high. The same is seen in "all other diseases." The deaths amongst those under five are 92, whilst those above are 116.

On Tuberculosis, &c.

A reference to Tuberculosis is here necessary to explain what I stated in my last year's report. On stating the number of cattle as being subject to the disease, it was by way of showing also how prevalent Phthisis is amongst human kind and the high death rate which is experienced "from somewhat similar causes like results obtain." We cannot say how far milk and meat from a Tuberculous animal

may affect us, but that we are susceptible to influences of a deleterious character if these are affected, cannot be denied. It is just to show how Glossop, being a manufacturing neighbourhood, contains the conditions more than other districts in Derbyshire for the high prevalence of this disease amongst its inhabitants. Yet there are seven other districts out of the 28 in Derbyshire, which have the same death rate from this disease, viz. 2·1, whilst there are three with slightly higher death rate. Glossop being situated in a wide valley, surrounded with high hills, part of the Pennine Range, and it, being West of the High Peak, we do not enjoy the same amount of beneficent sun light that the inhabitants eastward of the High Peak with its dry limestone surface and subsoil. When the sun becomes obscured as by a pall of cloud the source of health is shut off, and were it not for this one source of mischief, we might think ourselves in Arcadia with death-rate low enough.

I have been asked by members of the Sanitary Committee to explain what is being done to check the 50 per cent. of cattle suffering from the Tuberculosis, and to ameliorate the condition of our population, of whom in 1895, 51 died from Tubercular disease in the Borough.

As the human and animal organism of cattle are acted upon by the same faulty conditions in which they live, it will be obvious that the same remedies for the suppression of the disease are required both in man and animals. Owing to the great interest created amongst the Farmers in our district anent this disease, I was asked to address about 50 of them on the subject of Tuberculosis. I pointed out the necessity of large roomy shippons, well ventilated and supplied with light in abundance. To have air shafts for currents of air, 4 to 5 feet from the ground, open at outside, and also openings for exit of foul air near the top of shippon. One instance was given where Tuberculosis affected 7 cattle on one side of a shippon in succession and died. There were no windows on that side, and the ventilation was bad. On the other side of the shippon the cattle also 7 in number—were in the best of health, not one of them being affected with this disease, the difference was attributed by the Farmer who was one of the most intellectual to be met with, to the ventilation being good and the supply of light by windows being good also. Here at least 50 per cent. are lost in the course of 3 years.

I know an instance where a cow when bought was affected with this disease and introduced into a shippon where there were 7 others. Most of these also became ill. The shippon was dark and badly ventilated, and the floor being bad required resetting; the air space was more than doubled when the Shippon was re-built, and supplied with windows for light and ventilation, the result being an improvement in the health of those cattle that survived. A considerable number of Shippons have been re-built with the most recent improvements to increase air space, there should be at least say 600 cubic feet for each of the cattle, with windows on each side for opening. The windows to have hinges in the middle, so that when about half open, to be held in this position by a light chain fastened at the top of window frame, and a catch at corners of window, so that when let down—one half—the air would pass upwards if at all windy and no draught be felt.

The Shippons and Dairies in the Borough are receiving the attention of the Inspector and myself. Lord Howard I believe desires to make such improvements in the shippons and dairies as are required to promote ventilation ; roomy shippons, to be well lighted are essential to the health of cattle and the sound character of the milk.

In reference to slink butchers, I may say that it is nearly two years since a case of suspected Tuberculous meat was brought before my notice. On that occasion, we found the suspected meat was brought from another district. Since then the butchers who are emulous to produce good animal food, would at once give us notice if any bad meat were to be offered for sale, if the matter escaped the attention of the Inspector.

The same attention to the Laws of Health are needful for its preservation, as for its restoration. When once it has become impaired by an advent of the disease, either by (1) hereditary transmission as from parent to children ; or (2) by acquirement caused by unhealthy surroundings, which first of all impair vigour and change the nutrition of the system, causing the healthy germs and bacilli in the system to undergo degeneration and lead to consumption, probably also by the introduction of diseased germs which are thus allowed by the depressed vitality of the body to yield to its progressive action, and often becomes fatal. The agencies which assist the diseased action are numerous, viz.—Colds, Influenza when neglected, and any depressing cause as mental trouble may affect digestion and nutrition of the body, also ill-ventilated bedrooms and living rooms, bad drainage, rooms when poorly lighted, as well as in the workshops, especially where accompanied with sedentary employments, and these overcrowded. Thus we must have a complete change from the foregoing conditions in order to have complete health.

" Sir George Buchanan has show that wetness of soil is a fruitful cause of Phthisis, and he has found that in certain specified localities the fatality of this disease has diminished *pari passu* with the completion of effected operations for the deep drainage of the sub-soil. Overcrowding in damp and ill-ventilated rooms is another frequent pre-disposing cause of the spread of Phthisis. It is an unusual thing to find a well ventilated apartment even in the homes of the well-to-do ; but in the dwellings of the labouring classes it is still less usual. If we could thoroughly ventilate the rooms both of the rich and poor, if we could secure the efficient drainage and drying of damp sub-soil, whilst at the same time the great vice of overcrowding was discontinued, we should have done much to diminish the present heavy death toll due to Phthisis."

It may be considered by some, that this question has been too much considered, but a full account of the question was deemed necessary so as to show that there are influences which are far beyond the power of a Medical Officer to touch, such as Meteorological influences, nature of sub-soils, &c., which we may to some extent be content to know and make the best of the knowledge set before those whom it may concern.

With reference to paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article 18 of the Local Government Board's Order, I have reported to the Sanitary Authority and advised as to the necessity of the closing of the Day and Sunday Schools to prevent the extension of Measles, which in December was of a severe character, from causes explained. The epidemic of Scarlet Fever was severe, although the character has not been very fatal as in previous occasions of this kind.

Paragraph 6.—I have made personal visits to the majority of such diseases as Typhoid Fever, Diphtheria and Membraneous Croup, to instruct as to means to removal of causes likely to spread these diseases, viz. :—insist upon cleanliness and ventilation. (Owing to the long illness of our Inspector—although a competent assistant was appointed—still much of my usual duties were greatly increased.)

The district has been periodically visited every 3 months by myself and the Inspector. I have visited the Fever Hospital at Gamesley, on or about 50 occasions, and we were very fortunate to suppress the Small Pox in its incipient state in January, when 4 in one family came from Gloucester with the Small Pox, and as usual the house was visited by a number of people, and like flies to a candle, courted danger. We kept down the danger by vaccinating those likely to have caught any mischief.

GAMESLEY HOSPITAL.

Age.	Typhoid.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Small Pox.
17 years	1	...	...	...
4 ,,	...	...	...	1
7 ,,	...	...	...	1
6 months	..	...	...	1
12 years	1	...	...	...
10 ,,	1	...	...	...
3 ,,	1	...	...	...
12 ,,	1	...	...	...
6 ,,	...	1	...	...
40 ,,	1	...	...	...
35 ,,	1	...	...	...
7 ,,	1	...	...	...
8 ,,	1	...	...	...
21 ,,	...	...	...	...
16 ,,	1	...	...	...
10 ,,	...	1	...	...
12 ,,	...	1	...	...
5 ,,	...	1	...	...
7 ,,	...	1	...	...
3 ,,	...	1	...	...
11 ,,	...	1	...	...
2 ,,	...	1	...	...
4 ,,	...	...	1	...
22 ,,	1	...	...	...
62 ,,	...	...	1	...
	11	9	2	3

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the Year 1896, Urban Sanitary District of the Borough of Glossop.

		Inspections and Observations made.	Informal Notices served by Inspector.	Legal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling Houses and Schools.	Foul Conditions	70	35	—	35
	Structural Defects	279	139	10	139
	Overcrowding	2	1	—	1
	Unfit for Habitation	21	6	1	7
	Lodging Houses	42	—	—	—
	Dairies and Milkshops	20	—	—	—
	Cow Sheds	35	3	—	3
	Bakehouses	6	—	—	—
	Slaughter-houses	46	3	—	3
	Canal Boats	—	—	—	—
	Ashpits and Privies	3073	909	1	909
	Deposits of Refuse and Manure	14	7	—	7
	Water-Closets	38	19	—	19
House Drainage	Defective Traps	225	75	—	75
	No Disconnection	672	224	—	224
	Other Faults	339	113	—	113
	Water Supply	48	16	—	16
	Pigsties	27	9	—	9
	Animals improperly kept	97	31	—	31
	Offensive Trades	15	1	—	1
	Smoke Nuisances	40	15	—	14
	Other Nuisances	370	106	—	103
	Totals ..	5479	1712	12	1708

	Nos.	
Seizures of unwholesome Food	7	Fish found bad before delivery
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	9	Milk, all returned as pure.
„ „ found Adulterated	—	
„ of Water taken for Analysis	—	
„ „ condemned as unfit for use	—	

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed	128	Six of them burnt.
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	109	Three did their own besides this number.
Schools „ „ „	14	
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease	—	
Convictions „ „ „ „	—	
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things	—	
Convictions „ „ „ „	—	

The Inspector was seriously ill during January and February.

Disinfectants have been given out for hundreds of cases of measles.

Mr. Bowden's Yard has undergone much improvement, nine dwellings have had the ventilation improved, walls whitewashed, drainage in yard carried out and trapped.

The Main Sewering in the Borough is to a great extent completed, but it will be necessary to connect the drainage of the houses to the Mains as soon as possible, and to relieve the pressure of the sewer gas in the drains and mains by the construction of ventilating shafts, otherwise mischief will be done by the sewer gas being forced into the houses.

The working of the isolation Hospital is capable of being made more efficient in the early part of an epidemic such as of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria or Typhoid, and will receive early attention.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES RHODES,

Medical Officer of Health.